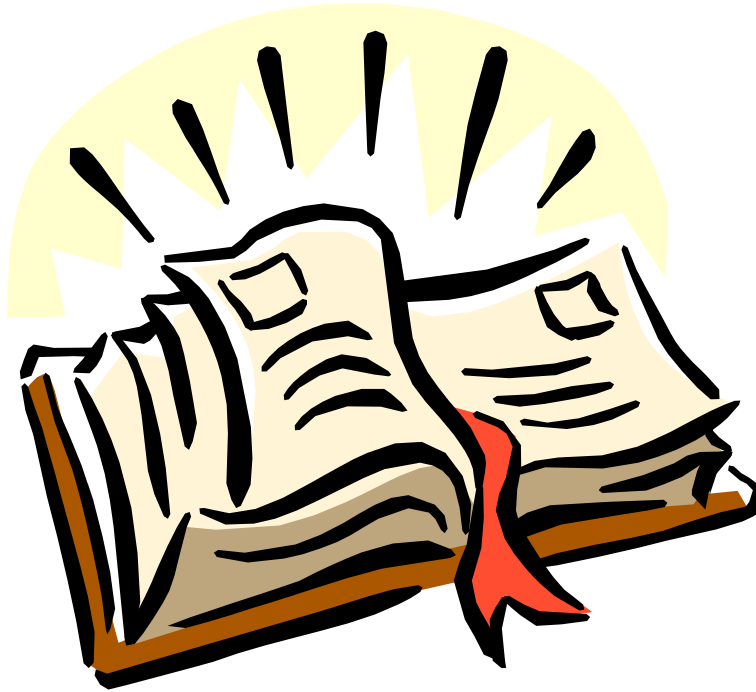


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Shipwreck at Malta



THEME: We should have courage and never lose heart because God is faithful.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 27:13 – 28:16

Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study **God's Word** together.

This week in Children's Church we learned about **Paul's Shipwreck at Malta**. The theme was "**We should have courage and never lose heart because God is faithful.**" Have you ever been in a situation that was really scary? That is where we find Paul this week. The book of Acts is exciting as we see Paul in the middle of a storm and the boat is about to sink. Will Paul become afraid or trust in the Lord?

Paul puts his trust in the Lord and we see how that God used Him greatly to make a difference in the lives of the sailors, the soldiers and the fellow prisoners on the ship. God can use when bad things are happening in our lives. Let's remember to always keep our eyes on Jesus, even in the middle of scary things!

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 27:13-28:16**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

Calm in the Storm

Text: Acts 27:25 - "Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. However, we must run aground on a certain island."

Also read Acts 27:13-26

When we read about Paul and his journeys, they seem to come right out of an adventure book. It doesn't seem possible that so many incredible things could all happen to one man. Of course, they did happen and they were written by the Holy Spirit to encourage believers throughout the ages. The stories of Paul's adventures give us hope in our walks with Jesus. In our story today, Paul is under arrest. He is being taken to see Caesar and to be tried before the Roman leader. His fate on this earth will be decided when he gets to where he is going. Paul is not afraid of being a prisoner. He is not trying to get away or out of the situation. He knows God is in control.

Back in Paul's day, there were no radios to call for help. A lost ship could be sunk for many weeks or months before anyone ever knew it was missing. It took a very long time for ships to get from one place to another. When Paul and his guards first took off from shore the journey was very calm. The captain had no idea a storm was going to hit. But then suddenly the storm hit. It took them way out to sea and there was no way to know where they were without looking at the stars. We use road maps now, but back then the sea captains used the stars to find their way.

Paul, through the Holy Spirit, gave a message from God to the people on the boat. Paul is not too scared to give the message from the Lord and he does not allow anger towards the people holding him as a prisoner or **fear** to stop him from comforting his jailers. Imagine how frightening it would be to be on a ship that is somewhere in a storm in the middle of the sea. No one knows where you are except for the One who is always watching. God knew right where to find Paul, didn't He? He sent an angel to speak to His apostle and to use him to tell others about Himself. He gave Paul strength and comfort in a very scary time. We should have **courage** and never lose heart because our God cares about us.

- Have you ever had something scary happen to you just when things were going fine?
- What can fear make you forget?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Fear: An unpleasant emotion caused by knowing there is danger near.

Courage: Strength to stand up to danger, fear or difficulties

Jesus' Light in a Dark Life

Text: Acts 27:34-35 - "And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat. Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves"

Also read Acts 27:27-37

Paul the Prisoner of God is still at sea in the middle of a storm. When we read about him today, we see he is again trusting in the Word of God. He is being a light for Jesus in the middle of a stormy dark night. There were three groups of people on the ship—the sailors, the Roman soldiers, and the prisoners, including Paul. For two weeks the sailors had been caught up in the storm. They had been tossed back and forth in the ship. They had some ropes that would tell them how deep the ocean was. They had all of the wisdom of man of what to do when they were caught in a storm. When the sailors thought they were near land, they were going to get into the smaller boats and get out of the ship. They were going to leave everyone else behind.

But it was Paul who was standing firm and solid on God's promises who knew what the plan REALLY was. Paul knew that even though they wanted to betray the others, the sailors must stay in the ship until God gave them the word to get out. The fears of the sailors would have killed them in a stormy sea. They would have jumped out of the ship and been dashed to pieces by the waves. Isn't it wonderful to know that God has everything under control?

Paul doesn't think bad things about the sailors, but he tells the Roman soldiers what is happening and they listen to and obey their own prisoner. Paul is given the gift of a word of knowledge and the gift of wisdom from the Holy Spirit. God doesn't want the sailors who did not believe in Him to die. God wants to use Paul, a faithful, trusting man of God, to show His love and power to nonbelievers. Paul **encourages** the men and tells them to eat bread. And in the middle of the storm, without one doubt, Paul breaks the bread and gives thanks to God for life. Even though there was a life-threatening storm all around them, Paul shows how much God is to be trusted in times of fear and worry.

- Name the ways Paul shows trust in God in this passage.
- Give some examples of people you know who show courage and faith in hard times.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Encourage: To inspire someone in their spirit with hope and courage.

Day Three

Jesus Is Our Deliverer

Text: Acts 27:42-43- "And the soldiers plan was to kill the prisoners, lest anyone of them should swim away and escape. But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land."

Also read Acts 27:20-26, 38-44

Paul was not a man who was known for his skills as a soldier, but he could face a soldier who wanted to hurt or even kill him with grace, strength and courage. Paul was not a big man, but his wise words could win over hearts because he allowed the Holy Spirit to use him. He was obedient and gave up being afraid of what appeared to be impossible because he knew God was bigger than any problem or situation he faced. Many times Paul faced imprisonment and death. Each time, he was able to look his captors right in the eye and witness to them about God. Every time Paul had an impossible situation, he just praised God and God **delivered** him. And God can give us the power to face hard times or difficult things with the same kind of courage.

In today's Bible reading, we see another true story of Paul and the other prisoners and how God delivers them. The Roman soldiers had standing orders to kill any prisoner who escaped from their custody. If they allowed a prisoner to escape, they would be put to death themselves. They were trained to be killers. The leader of the Roman guard has had his heart changed just by watching this little man with a great heart for Jesus. He trusts Paul. Why would you trust a prisoner? Just look at how much courage in the Lord that we have seen in Paul this week and the heart of Jesus that he shows to the sailors, the soldiers and the prisoners.

Not only that, but God has shown Paul to be a prophet, who speaks the truth given to him by God. The Roman centurion has learned that Paul's life is valuable. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Paul's simple, God-loving life has touched this "killer" soldier and shown him that all life has great value. We should have courage and never lose heart--just like Paul. God is faithful and others can see it in our lives and learn of Him and be **delivered** from sin and death too.

- What does it mean for you to have courage in the Lord?
- How did God deliver Paul?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Delivered: to be set free. Jesus delivers us from sin.

Day Four

God Gives Rest and Healing

Text: Acts 28:2 - "And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold."

Also Read Acts 28:1-10

Yesterday we left Paul and his companions on the ship that was being broken up by the ferocious storm. They had not made it to land yet, and the Roman guards very nearly killed Paul and the other prisoners because they were afraid their captives would escape. Paul's adventure on the ship is nearly over but when he gets to land, God is going to show everyone who was on the ship and the natives of the island His power to save and heal. God is able to use Paul again to let the others know that He is a great and mighty God.

Paul is a servant and even though he has been on board a ship in freezing rain and rolling seas, he helps the natives build the fire to warm all 276 people. A snake bites the apostle in the process. Imagine being bitten by a poisonous snake after all you had just gone through! Our God is great and can make what appears to be bad, be something very wonderful indeed. Paul doesn't cry out to God. He doesn't even stop what he is doing. He sets his own fears aside and is **available** to be used by God. And the natives are amazed. So amazed that they bring Paul to one of the island leaders, and God uses Paul to heal the leader's father and many others on the island who had diseases. The island people were able to experience the healing power of our Lord Jesus because Paul showed them how much they could trust the Lord.

We have seen how Paul continually puts his trust in God, no matter what the situation appears to be. A raging storm, a mutinous sailing crew, killer soldiers and even poisonous snakes! Paul has come through so much, but keeps on serving others. Paul uses every opportunity to show how faithful God is. He does not lose courage or heart. In fact he blesses God and honors Him by being **available** to God to be used for His great purposes.

- Name something about Paul that you admire from our devotions this week.
- Did Paul ever lose heart or courage in his trials?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Available: Present and ready for immediate use. Christians need to be available so God can show others He is trustworthy and true.

Day Five

Courage and Hope for the Lost

Text: Psalm 27:14 - "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!"

Also read Psalm 27 and Acts 28:11-16

Imagine being lost on a ship for weeks and weeks. You don't know where you are. The wind is howling around you and you can't see. You are chained up on the ship as a prisoner and there is no way to get any food and you are hungry. Then you see the sailors untying the lifeboats. They are going to jump ship. But someone stops them. One of the prisoners sitting next to you stands up and goes and talks to the Roman guards. You feel the waves pushing the ship here and there, and you are afraid. The same prisoner who was sitting next to you stands up and speaks bravely to the sailors and the guards that they should all eat—God is going to save everyone!

For the first time in days you see bread and your fellow prisoner lifts his bread and praises God. You eat the bread and think about this God. You have never seen someone so brave, but so humble. He really is a very small man, but he seems taller, more commanding than even the Roman guards. He is firm in his faith and tells you about a man named Jesus, who died for you, someone who can save you from your sins and eternal death. The man says Jesus will save every man on the ship. But, you think, there is no way to get out of the ship—the guards cut the ropes for the lifeboats and you know that you are going to die.

The world is a stormy place and we are all prisoners of sin. We are blown from one place to another, and unless you have a destination, you could end up being lost for eternity. There is a safe place in this world. Jesus came to earth to save all of us from our sins. It is sin that makes the world such a stormy place to live. You can be frightened and lost, unless someone shows you what direction to turn. Jesus is the place of safety. He is our Lifeboat. There is nothing to fear when Jesus is your Savior. Everyone needs to be told about Jesus and how He saves. With Jesus in our hearts we can have courage because He is so faithful to find and save His little children.

- Have you ever known someone who was afraid?
- Who is our Strength, Courage and Hope?

Kid's Prayer Time



Pray this week about how you can trust God more in your life and show Him to others. Ask God to show you if you are afraid of something and then pray for courage and heart to trust Him in all situations.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"The Lord says, 'I will love and protect those who know Me. I will answer when they call and rescue them from trouble.'"

Third Grade and Above

"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him."

Psalm 91:14-15